

POST - SECONDARY LIST

Words in this list were not known by students who had just completed their thirteenth year of formal schooling in New South Wales. The students ranged in age from 17;7 years to 18;10 years at the time they were assessed. Words and phrases in bold print are the unknown words. Phrases in normal print are provided to show the particular meanings which were not known by the students in this group.

abate – the noise **abated**
abattoir
abdicate the throne
abet
aberration – a short-lived **aberration** from his normal behaviour
abeyance
abhor
abhorrent
abide – I can't **abide** loud music
abominable behaviour
about – **up and about** (recovered after illness)
above suspicion
abreast of new developments
abrupt – she was **abrupt** (rude)
abscond
absorption – studying with great **absorption**
abstemious lifestyle
academic – that's all **academic** now
accordingly (therefore)
accost me in the street
accoutrements of the job
accrue
acid test
acquit – he **acquitted himself** well
acronym
action – the military **action** failed
act of God
acute – an **acute** situation as the bushfire approached

adage
adamant
addle – an **addled** mind
adept at rock climbing
adhere to the wall
ad infinitum
adjacent
admiral in the navy
admission – the prisoner made an **admission** concerning the crime
admonish him for being late
ad nauseum
ado
adorn the tree with decorations
adulation
adulterate food
adversary
adverse – an **adverse** finding in the case
aerodrome
aerogram
affable companion
affect – he **affected** interest - an **affected** (artificial) person
affidavit
affinity – a close **affinity** with the ballet
affliction
affluent country
affront – his statement was an **affront**
aficionado
afterbirth
afterimage
ageism
aggregate (the total)
agitate clothes in a washing machine
ailing
ailment
air – play an **air** on the piano - I'm **walking on air**
alarmist – an **alarmist**
albeit – a satisfying, **albeit** challenging situation
alchemy
alcove
alderman
alfresco – an **alfresco** meal
alimony
all – **for all that** (nevertheless)
allay your concerns
allot portions of the profit
 - **allot** that money for the

celebration
allowance – we won't make any **allowances** for illness
allure – an **alluring** stranger
alms
aloof
also-ran – an **also-ran** in the election
alternate boys with girls
altogether – **in the altogether**
altruism
amalgamate two businesses
amber fluid
ambient temperature
ambiguous
ambivalent about leaving the country
amble
amenable
amend the document
amiable
amicable
amnesty – an **amnesty** for political prisoners
amoral
amorous
amorphous
amulet
anachronism
anarchy
angst
anguish
animal – **animal husbandry**
animated – the child was very **animated**
animosity
ankle-biter
annex (to add)
 - to **annex** (take) land
annexe – the building had an **annexe**
annuity
anomaly
answerable – **answerable for**
antacid
antagonism
ante in a card game
antecedent – her **antecedents** lived in Spain
 - the **antecedents** to an event
antenatal
anthropology
antipathy
antiquity
antivenene